

IRS OFFERS SATURDAY HOURS FOR TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON -- The Internal Revenue Service will offer special extended walk-in service at over 150 locations across the country on six Saturdays from March 7 to April 11, 1998. The offices will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm local time.

The extended service is one of the customer improvements recommended by Vice President Gore's National Performance Review Task Force. Other customer improvements recently made by the IRS include special Problem Solving Days for taxpayers who have been unable to resolve their tax situations.

During the Saturday hours, taxpayers will be able to pick up forms and publications, get answers to account and tax law questions, receive verification of their individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) documentation, and make payments. In addition, during the last three Saturdays -- March 28 and April 4 and 11 -- the IRS will help prepare returns for low income, elderly, and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligible taxpayers.

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“Many people will find it more convenient to visit the IRS on a Saturday to get the help they need, rather than trying to fit it into their busy weekday schedules,” said IRS

Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti.

For many of these services, taxpayers do not have to visit the IRS at all. Most products and services the IRS offers are available through other means.

For example, taxpayers with tax law or account questions can call the IRS toll-free help line -- 1-800-829-1040 -- from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Free forms and publications are available through a toll-free order line, at 1-800-829-3676, on the IRS website at *www.irs.ustreas.gov*, and via return fax through TaxFax -- call 703-368-9694. And taxpayers may receive return preparation assistance from IRS's local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, frequently offered at libraries and other community locations.

Taxpayers may call the help line at 1-800-829-1040 to find the locations for Saturday walk-in, VITA and TCE assistance.

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